

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

February 17, 2022 (Thursday)

Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall

7:00 PM

Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, Dennis Demers, John Skarin, David Williams, Karin Paquin and William Dunbar. Priscilla Ryder - Conservation Officer was also present.

Absent: none

Acceptance of Minutes: February 3, 2022 were reviewed and on a motion by Mr. White second by Mr. Clancy, to approve. The Commission voted unanimously approved 7-0.

Public hearings: None

Discussion/Project Updates:

- Ghiloni Park Native Pollinator Garden Proposal (Feb. 2022) – Paul Goldman and Karin Paquin
Paul Goldman introduced himself as a retired research scientist who has agreed to work with Commission member Karin Paquin to install a native pollinator garden. Ms. Paquin explained that the Native Pollinator task force group which she is a part, are looking to add pollinator gardens in all 32 communities in the SuAsCo watershed. The goal is to return native plants to the area (not cultivars or genetically altered seeds) to feed and support the native bees, wasps, butterflies, and other insect pollinators which are in steep decline. The concern is that with the urbanization of our landscape native plants have been pushed aside and the native pollinators have declined in large numbers. An experiment was done in Southborough to naturalize a field with native plants and the results were that the native pollinators that were not present are back and thriving. This spurred the idea of creating these gardens in each community to educate and encourage the public to add these native plants to their gardens and thereby ushering in the return of these endangered pollinators. There are already volunteers lining up to help from the garden clubs, AMSA, Girl Scouts etc. Signage, educational programs, and information on the web site will be part of this project. A site at Ghiloni Park has been identified and approved by the Recreation Department and DPW inside the track near one of the ponds. Mr. Goldman presented a power point with slides showing the gardens location, layout, design, and budget. A grant for \$250 was received for this work. Mr. Goldman asked if the Commission would be willing to allocate any funds towards this habitat improvement project. The Commission discussed the seedlings, stone dust vs. gravel path (Mr. Demers will donate stone), signage and invasive plant removal in the area including oriental bittersweet, and the ongoing survey that will be done to determine what and when pollinators return. The Commission then discussed funding and agreed to allocate \$750 towards the purchase of seedlings in the garden. On a

motion by Mr. Demers second by Mr. Clancy to provide \$750 from the Conservation Fund towards this project, the Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to approve.

- **Annual Review of Policies (continued from Feb. 3, 2022)**

- Wetland Setback Policy – Draft - The Commission reviewed the revised policy to include a 30' wetland setback to replace the 20' wetland setback policy. After a few minor edits, on a motion by Mr. White second by Mr. Clancy to approve the new wetland setback policy as drafted and amended on this date 2/17/22. The Commission voted unanimously in favor 7-0. It was agreed that Ms. Ryder will distribute this new policy to all contractors and city council and city departments that deal with construction.
 - Tree Removal Policy – Draft - the Commission reviewed the revised tree removal policy for trees within the wetland buffer zone. After some discussion and a few amendments, on a motion by Mr. White, second by Mr. Clancy to approve the Tree Removal Policy as drafted and amended on this date 2/17/22. The Commission voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
- **Snow dump and salt** – continue discussion – This discussion was continued to a future meeting.

Correspondence/Other Business

- Letter from Beaver Solutions dated 1/28/2022 RE: 2020 routine maintenance on Flexible Pond Leveler pipe system(s) - The Commission reviewed the annual maintenance agreement and agreed it was worth continuing. On a motion by Mr. Demers, second by Mr. Clancy, to spend \$335 on this annual maintenance agreement, the Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to approve.
- **Next Conservation Commission meetings:** March 3rd and 17th, 2022
- **Adjournment-** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder

Conservation/Sustainability Officer